Song and Drama Division

1262. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Committee of Secretaries at its meeting held on April 28, 2004, felt that there was no justification for the existence of the Song and Drama Division and the Department of Field Publicity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Committee of Secretaries in its meeting held on 28th April, 2004, *inter alia* decided that the Field Publicity and Song and Drama Division shall be closed down and the Photo Division, Publications Division and Films Division shall be downsized substantially.

(c) The matter is proposed to be discussed again in the Committee of Secretaries after completion of a detailed review of the various issues and options.

Development of film industry

†1263. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether annual pace of development of film industry has been satisfactory during the last years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the country can earn huge foreign

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

exchange through this industry; and

(d) if so, Government's assessment in this regard and the foreign exchange earned during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) According to the Report of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) on the Indian Entertainment Industry brought out in 2004, the film industry in India is expected to grow at a compounded annual growth rate of 18% to gross Rs. 10,100 crores by the year 2008. Gross industry revenues over a period of 1999 to 2001 have also recorded an increase. The industry recorded a loss in 2002. However, the total revenues of the industry increased to Rs. 4500 crores in 2003.

(c) and (d) According to the FICCI report, the Indian Diaspora across Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and North America is conservatively estimated at 20 million. The underlying potential of the film industry to earn foreign exchange is linked to the effective reach of Indian films to these viewers, as also its visibility in global markets.

According to information received from the Film Federation of India (FFI), year-wise break-up of foreign exchange earned by the film industry during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
2000-01	450
2001-02	900
2002-03	1040

Implementation of C.A.S.

†1264. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to implement CAS in the country and, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether CAS would be beneficial to the consumers;

(c) whether CAS would be cheaper in comparison to the Cable System;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.